

Florence County Menu of Potential Ozone Reduction Programs

Florence County commends the Bureau of Air Quality Control of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for its entrepreneurial approach to decreasing ground level ozone in our community. Florence County is committed to the Ozone Early Action process and will work with state agencies, municipalities, institutions, private industry and the public at large to develop and implement measures that will ensure attainment of ground level ozone standards by the mandated deadline.

Creation of Early Action Ozone Task Force

The Florence County Economic Development Partnership and Florence County have made appointments to serve on a *Florence County Early Action Task Force* (Task Force). This Task Force is representative of both governmental, business and community interests and includes individuals with high levels of expertise on the subject of air quality management.

Three-Pronged Approach Recommended

The Task Force contemplates a three-pronged approach to achieving a reduction in ground level ozone by the mandated deadline. The first approach is a public and business awareness campaign aimed at ensuring that all citizens of Florence County, both corporate and individual, completely understand the ground level ozone issue. The second approach is to recommend actions and influence behaviors aimed at reducing emissions of nitrous oxide and volatile organic compounds on a general and on-going basis. The third approach is to recommend specific actions and influence behaviors on those days for which ground level ozone is forecasted to be in the highest category.

Possible Approaches to Building Public and Business Awareness

The Task Force is considering the following approaches to building awareness of “the problem”, the Early Action process and the ramifications of failing to achieve attainment by the mandated deadline:

- ?? **Appearances on public access television and commercial television programs.**
- ?? **Appearances on local radio talk shows.**
- ?? **Presentations to civic clubs, business groups, environmental coalitions, governmental councils and agencies and other assemblages.**
- ?? **Publication of a “Ground Level Ozone- What it Means to Florence County” brochure.**
- ?? **Coverage in local newspapers and magazines.**

- ?? Inclusion of ground level ozone-related articles in the newsletters issued by the Economic Development Partnership, Chambers of Commerce, and other organizations.
- ?? Working with Florence County school districts to educate students about what they can do to preserve air quality.

Possible Approaches to Reducing Ozone Formation on a General and On-Going Basis

- ?? Identify owners/operators of major fleet vehicle pools in Florence County, including public, private and institutional concerns:
 - Encourage fleet maintenance to ensure that vehicular emissions remain within manufacturer's standards.
 - Encourage replacement of older vehicles with vehicles that are more fuel-efficient and with lower emissions.
 - Request that fleet vehicle users maintain accurate records of vehicle maintenance and replacement as an indicator of progress toward lower emissions.
 - Encourage the utilization of alternate fuels when able to demonstrate a return on the cost retrofitting and maintaining existing vehicle fleets.
 - Recommend a "no idling" policy for fleet vehicles when practical. Encourage the numerous truck stops/auto plazas in Florence County to promote no idling of vehicles when practical. Provide refrigerated over the road trucks with electrical outlets where practical and economical.
 - Encourage fleet operators to constantly review routing and scheduling to maximize efficiency and reduce fuel consumption.
- ?? Consider placing strict controls and strictly enforcing outdoor burning, including outright bans on the burning certain substances that produce nitrous oxides or volatile organic compounds.
 - Work in coordination with county and municipal public works departments, law enforcement, environmental services departments building and codes enforcement offices, fire departments, etc. to develop stronger county and municipal codes and to strongly enforce these codes.
- ?? Work with electric and natural gas utility providers to perform periodic energy audits of all public and institutional facilities Florence County.
 - Set a goal of ____% reduction in annual non-weather related energy consumption in same facilities over a ____ year period.
 - Encourage governments and institutions in Florence County to educate their employees on day-to-day energy conservation measures.
- ?? Other:
 - Encourage golf courses utilizing gasoline powered carts to switch to electric carts as replacement needs are contemplated.
 - Work with the S.C. Departments of Transportation and Public Safety to

discourage vehicle idling in rest areas and weigh stations in the county.

- Seek the assistance of SCDHEC to investigate the benefits of requiring “vapor recovery” systems on fuel dispensing equipment in the county.
- Work with the S.C. Department of Transportation and the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority to better identify commuting patterns in the greater Florence County region. Study the possibility of establishing “park and ride” lots to transition from private vehicles to public transit.
- Encourage employers to provide “preferred parking” for car pools.
- Work with the S.C. Department of Transportation to improve traffic flow via computerized traffic signal scheduling and related systems.

Possible Approaches to Reducing Ozone Formation on High Ozone Days

- ?? Ensure that local/regional media are receiving and reporting high ozone predictions as released by SCDHEC.
- ?? Encourage fleet vehicle operators in Florence County to refuel vehicles after peak ozone formation hours (6:00 PM+?).
- ?? Have the County and its municipalities re-schedule the utilization of heavy equipment (mowers, heavy construction vehicles, etc.) if at all possible.
- ?? Seek assistance from the S.C. Department of Transportation in rescheduling construction, maintenance and mowing projects where practical. Ask SCDOT to encourage their contractors to reschedule construction work when practical.
- ?? Discourage the utilization of solvents and non-latex paint by individuals, government agencies, institutions and private businesses where practical.
- ?? Discourage lawn mowing and the utilization of other gasoline powered equipment by individuals, businesses, government agencies and institutions during peak ozone formation hours.
- ?? Encourage car-pooling or “work at home” days for governmental, institutional and private sector employees where practical.
- ?? Encourage SCDOT to close any weigh stations in the county to reduce emissions from idling over the road vehicles.
- ?? Work with county, municipal and state elected and appointed officials to investigate possible incentives to encourage new and expanding business and industry to adopt low emissions technology, energy conservation, etc.